

Northwood Presbyterian Church
6721 N Monroe St
Spokane, WA 99208

February 2026

Northwood News

Note from the Pastor:

This Sign Is Not Just For You... or Me

There's a 'Reader Board'—or some might call it 'A Sign'—that's visible outside Northwood Presbyterian Church. And if you've driven by and wondered about the words which are changed from week-to-week, I hope you will bear with me... Some may consider them cryptic and unclear. Others may become frustrated in the way that we're frustrated with a puzzle-piece that doesn't seem to fit. And still others may simply ignore anything that appears on a church sign as irrelevant to their lives. I beg to differ—and I do mean to *beg!*

If those of you reading into this second paragraph are at all familiar with the parables of Jesus, you know that the words, images and symbolism he employs often require a second or third perusal. They are not like rules or instructions or how-to manuals—meant to explain something useful. When Jesus utters a parable, it's not as if he's posting traffic signals to make sure pedestrians and car-commuters can co-exist on the road. What he's doing *is* confusing. Of course! There is always an element of surprise, reversal or bewilderment. And his hearers very often wander away either shrugging their shoulders or shaking their heads. Even the disciples are notoriously uncomprehending (see Mark 4:13 and 34).

Nevertheless, Jesus keeps at it. Can we? Consider, as a confounding example, the Parable of the Dishonest Steward, which concludes in Luke 16:9 with the words: "**Make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth, so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.**" Now, if you weren't invited to think differently and deeply, you might say that Jesus has proposed something extremely unethical, or that he's lost his moral scruples. Or... if such a series of syllables happened to be brandished across a Reader Board, you might become curious and suspect that there's MORE than meets the eye or more than the average intellect of the average transactional brain can comprehend.

Now, while I do not even pretend to be as creative or as clever as Jesus, I do believe the sign associated with this congregation can do more than just say, 'Come & Join Us!' or 'Everyone's

Welcome!’ On the contrary, it can imitate the dynamics of a parable and potentially move a person to a position of malleable receptivity. (It can. It might not. It might not ever.)

Let’s face up to the cultural conundrum. Words bombard us in so many ways—and more often than not, their intention is to manipulate, control or cajole us into a certain behavior. I read a recent opinion piece in the *New York Times*, which noted how a prominent politician frequently concludes his *Truth Social* posts with “THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER”—and we know where we’ve heard that before. We’ve seen it on legal notices, threatening law suits or punitive action if there’s no compliance. By contrast, I’m suggesting that a community of faith ought to counteract such passive-aggressive rhetoric with phrases that are playfully befuddling, and that may lead to a transformational and grace-filled break-through.

And now, for those who just want me to say, “GOD LOVES YOU”, in all capital letters, I’ve just done that. But no sign from the Holy Spirit can just be for you... or for me... Can it, Mary Ann?

Peace~

Scott

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.”

—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

From *Strength to Love*.

Holy Baptism—

Reaffirmation of Baptism—

and New Members' Classes

When?

Sunday's

March 1, 9 to 10 a.m.

March 22, 9 to 10 a.m.

Where?

Pastor Scott's Study

Why?

Because you're being offered a sacred choice:

—to live out the love of God in the person of Jesus Christ in *specific* community with the 'Children of God' who gather here at Northwood Presbyterian Church at this time in history...

—and/or to mark the wondrous way that God's Spirit has moved in your faith-journey & to respond with a public expression of gratitude and the need for mutual accountability...

—and/or to learn the significance of Holy Baptism as it's been practiced for centuries...

—and/or to understand more thoroughly how Presbyterian Christianity offers an important voice in bearing witness to Christ and his kingdom of reconciliation, justice and compassion for the vulnerable...

Contact Pastor Scott for further details: pastor@northwoodpres.org

Session Highlights

January Session Report

At their January 20, 2026 meeting, Northwood Session elders:

1. Prayed for needs in the congregation.
2. Heard that Building & Grounds has noticed some lamps in the fixture in the choir area is out; the replacement would require renting scaffolding and we decided to wait until another fixture will require this rental.
3. Approved all of the inside/outside speakers for Fun Friday potluck programs through the school year starting with January 16th with a Report from Cup of Cool Water, February 20's gathering is a Poetry Slam; everyone is invited to share a poem, Bible passage, a reading that speaks to them; March 20th program with Marijki Fakasiieiki to talk about the Fig Tree Newsletter; on April 24, a presentation from Sean Jonz on Alzheimer's. May 15, Joshua Barnes from our Congregation will do a glass blowing demonstration in the parking lot.
4. New Lenten devotionals will be ordered, a shared Ash Wed. service with Knox, Shadle Park, Lidgerwood, Bethany Presbyterian and hosted at Knox Presbyterian on February 18. Easter is April 5th and the Congregation will be invited to dedicate flowers for loved ones.
5. Christian Education continues to meet for Bible Study on Monday's at 12:30pm, Study material is "Mark for Everyone" by N.T. Wright.
6. Approved and thanked the 2026 Officer Nominating Committee to send for final vote at the Jan. 25 Congregational Meeting: Moderator/Elder Rod Christenson, Deacon Joe Simspn and two at-large members: Bill Ailes and Robin Johnson;
7. Approved 2026 Church Budget; per capita for 2026 is \$40.
- 8.. Approved the financial report for December 31, 2025, and heard reports from all the Session committees.

-Rev. Scott Kinder-Pyle, Moderator

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Financial Update:

December 31, 2025

Total Income:	\$20,134
Total Expenses:	\$ 9,543
Gain/Loss:	<u>\$10,592</u>

Total Per Capita Income for 2025: \$2,067,- thank you!

Thanks for giving faithfully to the ministry and mission of Northwood as we've begun this New Year!

Fellowship

February & March Fun Fridays

Fun Friday for February 20 is "A Poetry Slam". The potluck starts at 6:00 pm with program (poetry readings) to follow.

Fun Friday for March 20 is a presentation by Marijki Fakasileiki about the Fig Tree Newsletter, an Interfaith Ecumenical organization, they are a non-profit, who provides stories in the monthly newsletter (on-line and in print) . Potluck starts at 6:00 with presentation to follow.

-Sharon Cathcart, Fellowship Elder



- 1 Moya Nollette
- 11 Sally Almond
- 13 Jennifer Johnson
- 14 Bill Ailes

Mission & Outreach



Super-Bowl of Caring

Go Hawks!!!!!! Oh, wait a minute, there are two teams playing for the Super Bowl! **On Sunday, February 8th,** Mission and Outreach will have a table set up in the Fellowship Hall labeled Sea Hawks at one end and the Patriots on the other end. You are invited to bring food for Mead Food Bank and put it on the team's side you would like to win. Start your food bank shopping now!

-Mission and Outreach Elder Jane Nielsen

Christian Education

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The adult small group Bible Study meets on Mondays, at 12:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. They have Everyone is welcome!---Contact Christian Ed. Elder Rod Christenson for more information.

Faith calls us to love out loud.

Spirit speaks we hear the sound

Of all creation rising now.....By, Free Families & Songs

Worship & Music

Lent Begins February 18

ASH WEDNESDAY

“... you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” —Genesis 3:19

Northwood Presbyterian Church will be combining with the members and friends of other Presbyterian churches in the various neighborhoods to participate in a service of worship for Ash Wednesday.

These congregations include *Knox, Shadie Park, Lidgerwood, Bethany* and perhaps others.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a mysterious journey toward the redeeming presence of God in human suffering... our suffering and our mortality. The Season of Lent, which begins

on that day and lasts for seven weeks, will culminate on Good Friday, and is meant to train our thoughts and emotions in the ways of humble, servant-relationships.

Hope to see the cross-shaped ash in the crevices of your foreheads when you make the holy choice to attend and to pray together with our siblings.

Peace in Christ!

The service of worship for Ash Wednesday will take place
on Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 p.m.

at

**Knox Presbyterian Church
806 W. Knox Avenue, Spokane, WA.**



February 1 – Sarah Colgrove
February 8 – Sharon Cathcart
February 15 – Jane Nielsen
February 22 – Ken Cathcart

Greeters for February

Week 1: Carol Christenson

Week 2: Susan and Gerry Riddle

Week 3: Jane and Terry Nielsen

Week 4: Gayle and Mike Fetcho



Administration & Finance

Per Capita Reminder

The per capita for the 2026 year is \$40.00 and should be paid by each member of the Northwood congregation. Please remit, in the envelopes on the lobby table or in your 2026 Giving Envelopes), that amount to Northwood as this is the amount our congregation is charged for each member of the church by the Presbytery (and General Assembly) for our congregation's yearly membership in The Inland Northwest Presbytery.

Thank you, Dr. Ken Cathcart, Elder of Administration and Finance Comm

FEBRUARY

Sunday – February 1

10:30 am Worship Service with Communion
Sarah Colgrove, Worship Asst.
Coffee Time

Monday – February 2

12:30 pm Adult Bible Study

Wednesday – February 4

6 pm Bell Rehearsal
7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday – February 5

9 am Presbytery Summit Mtg. (on Zoom)

Super Bowl Sunday - February 8

10:30 am Worship Service
Sharon Cathcart, Worship Asst.
Coffee Time
11:50 am Worship & Music Comm.

Monday – February 9

12:30 pm Adult Bible Study

Tuesday - February 10

6 pm Mission & Outreach Comm.
7 pm Committee Night

Wednesday - February 11

6 pm Bell Rehearsal
7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sunday - February 15 Transfiguration

10:30 am Worship Service
Jane Nielsen Worship Asst.
Coffee Time

Monday – February 16

Presidents Day Holiday

12:30 pm Adult Bible Study

Tuesday - February 17

7 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday - February 18 Ash Wed.

6:30 pm Combined Ash Wed. Service @
Knox Presb.

Meals on Wheels

6 pm Bell Rehearsal

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday - February 19

Meals on Wheels

Friday – February 20

Meals on Wheels
6:00 pm Fun Friday Potluck-Poetry Slam

Sunday - February 22

10:30 am Worship Service
Ken Cathcart, Worship Asst.
Coffee Time

Monday – February 23

10:00am Newsletter deadline
12:30pm Adult Bible Study

Wednesday – February 25

6 pm Bell Rehearsal
7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Northwood Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Scott Kinder-Pyle

Choir Director: Bob Brown

Office Administrator/Wedding Coord.: Holly Christoff

Organist/Pianist: Cathy Brown

Treasurer: Donna Harvey

Custodian: Michael Stitt

Sound Technician: Jo Detlaff

Phone: 509-328-2012 / E-Mail: office@northwoodpres.org

Office Hours: 9-2 Tuesday-Thursday Web Site: www.northwoodpres.org

Facebook: Northwood Presbyterian Church